

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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P 052344Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TC

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING
TO THE UAE

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN A FEW DAYS JACK ANDERSON'S
SYNDICATED COLUMN WILL CARRY AN ARTICLE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE UAE ON THE ILLEGAL PROCUREMENT OF
FALCONS IN THE U.S. AS A GIFT FOR SHAIKH ZAYID.

2. A U.S. CITIZEN OF GREEK EXTRACTION, WHOM ANDERSON WILL
ALLEGEDLY CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S
REELECTION CAMPAIGN AND WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE IMPORTANT
BUSINESS INTERESTS IN THE EMIRATES, TOLD A DEPARTMENT
OFFICER THAT HE HAD HIT UPON THE IDEA OF PURCHASING FALCONS
IN THE U.S. AS A GIFT FOR SHAIKH ZAYID. AFTER INFORMING
THE UAE EMBASSY OF HIS INTENTION, HE TOLD DEPT OFFICER THAT
HE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE OFFERING FALCONS FOR SALE.
THE SALE WAS CONSUMMATED, BUT THE PERSON SELLING THE FALCONS
WAS AN AGENT OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. THE
PURCHASER WAS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN AN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF BIRD. HE PLEADED GUILTY AND WAS FINED DOLS 500.

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3. DURING THE PRE-TRIAL PERIOD, DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE DEFENDANT'S LAWYERS ENCLOSING A STATEMENT FROM THE UAE EMBASSY ATTESTING THAT THE DEFENDANT HAD PURCHASED FALCONS AT THE EMBASSY'S BEHEST FOR THE ABU DHABI ZOO IN IGNORANCE OF U.S. REGULATIONS. THE ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY TRYING THE CASE TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE UAE EMBASSY'S CLAIM DEFENDANT WAS IGNORANT OF LAW WAS FALSE. IN LETTER TO DEPARTMENT, DEFENDANT'S LAWYERS SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT INTERVENTION TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE UAE, BUT THIS SUGGESTION WAS TURNED DOWN IN WRITING BY THE DEPARTMENT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM JACK ANDERSON'S OFFICE FOR A STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE, WE HAVE DENIED ANY IMPROPER INTERCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT, CITING OUR WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LETTER FROM THE DEFENDANT'S LAWYERS AS EVIDENCE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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